Manning of Level Crossings is planned Zone wise and not State wise. However, all the level crossings qualifying the criteria of manning are planned for manning.

Container transport operations

2080. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement between the Railways and 14 private players in containers operation;

(b) whether Government are considering more private investment in Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and areas identified for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The Agreement has been framed keeping in view the best international practices being followed; it is bankable, ensures a level-playing field among various container train operators and adequately addresses the national & public interest perspective as also concerns of the private players.

(b) and (c) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality areas have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Rail service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin

2081. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a service organisation, it is not prudent to go for railway service to certain unserved areas;

(b) if so, in that process whether there would be a new railway service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin *via* Keelakarai, Erwadi, Kamudhi,